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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DES MOINES IA
800 AM CDT TUE APR 7 2009

...THIS IS SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK IN IOWA...

GOVERNOR CHET CULVER...THE IOWA HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT DIVISION...AND THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAVE
DESIGNATED THE WEEK OF APRIL 6 TO APRIL 10 AS SEVERE WEATHER
AWARENESS WEEK IN IOWA. EACH MORNING THIS WEEK...THE NATIONAL
WEATHER SERVICE IN DES MOINES WILL ISSUE A PUBLIC INFORMATION
STATEMENT FOCUSING ON A DIFFERENT ITEM EACH DAY. TOPICS THIS
YEAR INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING...

MONDAY...FLOODING
TUESDAY...SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS
WEDNESDAY...TORNADOES
THURSDAY... NOAA ALL HAZARDS WEATHER RADIO
FRIDAY...FAMILY PREPAREDNESS

ATTENTION MEDIA...IN ORDER FOR SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK TO
BE EFFECTIVE...MEDIA COVERAGE IS CRITICAL. PLEASE USE THE
INFORMATION IN THE PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS IN YOUR NEWS
PROGRAMS TO HELP PROMOTE SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY. WE ALSO
ENCOURAGE MEDIA INTERVIEWS. PLEASE CONTACT JEFF JOHNSON OR THE
SENIOR METEOROLOGIST IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

TODAY/S TOPIC IS SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS...
SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS FREQUENTLY VISIT IOWA YEAR. EACH YEAR ON
AVERAGE IOWA SEES ABOUT 48 TORNADOES...TENS OF FLASH FLOOD
EVENTS...HUNDREDS OF SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS...AND THOUSANDS OF NON-
SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS. IT IS HOPED THAT BY USING THESE PUBLIC
INFORMATION STATEMENTS...THE PUBLIC CAN BE BETTER EDUCATED ON THE
DANGERS OF SEVERE WEATHER AND PROTECTIVE ACTIONS NEEDED TO SAVE
LIVES.

BY DEFINITION...A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM MUST CONTAIN HAIL THAT IS
ONE INCH IN DIAMETER OR LARGER...STRAIGHT LINE WINDS OF 58 MPH OR
STRONGER...AND/OR A TORNADO. THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ISSUES
SEVERE THUNDERSTORM AND TORNADO WATCHES AND WARNINGS FOR SEVERE
THUNDERSTORMS. **THE ONE INCH HAIL CRITERIA WAS INCREASED FROM
THREE QUARTER INCHES ON APRIL 1...2009.**

THUNDERSTORM SAFETY...
WHAT YOU CAN DO!

BEFORE THE STORM...

- KNOW THE COUNTY IN WHICH YOU LIVE AND THE NAMES OF NEARBY MAJOR CITIES. SEVERE WEATHER WARNINGS ARE ISSUED BY COUNTIES.
- CHECK THE WEATHER FORECAST BEFORE LEAVING TO BE OUTDOORS FOR EXTENDED PERIODS.
- WATCH FOR SIGNS OF APPROACHING STORMS.
- IF A STORM IS APPROACHING...KEEP A NOAA WEATHER RADIO OR AM/FM RADIO WITH YOU.
- POSTPONE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES IF THUNDERSTORMS ARE IMMINENT. THIS IS YOUR BEST WAY TO AVOID BEING CAUGHT IN A DANGEROUS SITUATION.
- CHECK ON THOSE WHO HAVE TROUBLE TAKING SHELTER IF SEVERE WEATHER THREATENS.

WHEN THUNDERSTORMS APPROACH...

- REMEMBER: IF YOU CAN HEAR THUNDER...YOU ARE CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE STORM TO BE STRUCK BY LIGHTNING. GO TO SAFE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!
- MOVE TO A STURDY BUILDING OR CAR. DO NOT TAKE SHELTER IN SMALL SHEDS...UNDER ISOLATED TREES...OR IN CONVERTIBLE AUTOMOBILES.
- IF LIGHTNING IS OCCURRING AND A STURDY SHELTER IS NOT AVAILABLE... GET INSIDE A HARD TOP AUTOMOBILE AND KEEP WINDOWS UP.
- GET OUT OF BOATS AND AWAY FROM WATER.
- TELEPHONE LINES AND METAL PIPES CAN CONDUCT ELECTRICITY. UNPLUG APPLIANCES NOT NECESSARY FOR OBTAINING WEATHER INFORMATION. AVOID USING THE TELEPHONE OR ANY ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES. USE PHONES ONLY IN AN EMERGENCY.
- DO NOT TAKE A BATH OR SHOWER.
- TURN OFF AIR CONDITIONERS. POWER SURGES FROM LIGHTNING CAN OVERLOAD THE COMPRESSORS.

IF CAUGHT OUTDOORS AND NO SHELTER IS NEARBY...

- FIND A LOW SPOT AWAY FROM TREES...FENCES AND POLES. MAKE SURE THE PLACE YOU PICK IS NOT SUBJECT TO FLOODING.
- IF YOU ARE IN THE WOODS...TAKE SHELTER UNDER THE SHORTER TREES.
- IF YOU FEEL YOUR SKIN TINGLE OR YOUR HAIR STAND ON END...SQUAT LOW TO THE GROUND ON THE BALLS OF YOUR FEET. PLACE YOUR HANDS ON YOUR KNEES WITH YOUR HEAD BETWEEN THEM. MAKE YOURSELF THE SMALLEST TARGET POSSIBLE AND MINIMIZE YOUR CONTACT WITH THE GROUND.
- IF YOU ARE BOATING OR SWIMMING...GET TO LAND AND FIND SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!

NOAA/S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF WEATHER...WATER AND CLIMATE INFORMATION. THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OPERATES THE MOST ADVANCED WEATHER AND FLOOD WARNING AND FORECAST SYSTEM IN THE WORLD HELPING TO PROTECT LIVES AND PROPERTY AND ENHANCE THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

FOR MORE SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION ON-LINE...GO TO THE DES MOINES NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WEB SITE AT WWW.WEATHER.GOV/DESMOINES.

JEFF JOHNSON
WARNING AND COORDINATION METEOROLOGIST
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DES MOINES IA
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